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NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

25 June 1968

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant to the President
(Mr. Rostow)

Deputy Secretary of Defense

Deputy Under Secretary of State for
Political Affairs

Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Request for Relaxation of the 303 Committee
Mission-by-Mission Approval Restriction on
the IDEALIST/TACKLE Program

1. Target coverage [redacted] can be intensified by relaxation of the mission-by-mission approval restriction. Removal of this restriction would provide improved reaction capability to good weather areas over the Chinese mainland. The rapidly changing weather conditions in China, though frequently providing areas of good weather during the summer months, make it difficult to generate a mission taking advantage of the good weather areas unless planning is based on short-range weather forecasts. The ability to react quickly to good weather areas allows more flexible planning of missions in China, permitting the operator to choose one of the variety of pre-planned mission routes rather than having to rely on a less accurate long-range weather forecast while seeking individual mission approvals. The opportunity of acquiring photography in clear areas and satisfying requirements¹ is considerably enhanced when a short reaction capability is authorized.

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- ¹a. Requirements for Coverage of South China (USIB-D41.14/283, March 1966)
- b. Long Range Reconnaissance Requirements of the Far East (USIB-D41.14/276, 19 January 1966)

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2. In view of the above, it is requested that the 303 Committee consider the relaxing of the present restrictions requiring mission-by-mission approval of the IDEALIST/TACKLE Program, and reaffirm the recurring bank of four missions per month.

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Alexander H. Flax

Director

National Reconnaissance Office

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SAS/O/OSA

[redacted] (3 June 1968)

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